

# JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON WATER RESOURCE MITIGATION

CREATED BY ESSB 6091 (2018)

Committee Operating Procedures  
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

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## OBJECTIVES

The Task Force is required to review the treatment of surface water and groundwater appropriations as they relate to instream flows and fish habitat, to develop and recommend a mitigation sequencing process and scoring system to address such appropriations, and to review the Washington Supreme Court decision in *Foster v. Department of Ecology*, 184 Wn.2d 465, 362 P.3d 959 (2015).

## MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

The Task Force anticipates meeting six times in 2018 and six times in 2019. One co-chair of the Task Force is a member of the majority caucus of one chamber of the Legislature, and one co-chair is a member of the minority caucus of the other chamber of the Legislature.

The co-chairs shall determine the date, time, and place of meetings. Notice of meetings must be printed in the Legislative Meeting Schedule, when possible, and published on the internet. A minimum notice of seven days must be given for any Task Force meeting.

The Task Force is required to submit a final report with recommendations to the Legislature by November 15, 2019. The Task Force expires on December 31, 2019.

## MEMBERSHIP

Committee membership consists of the following:

- Two members from each caucus of the House and two members from each caucus of the Senate;
- One representative each from the Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Agriculture;
- One representative from the farming industry in Washington;
- One representative from an organization representing Washington cities;
- Two representatives from an environmental advocacy organization or organizations;
- One representative from an organization representing municipal water purveyors;
- One representative from an organization representing business interests; and
- Representatives of two federally recognized Indian tribes, one invited by recommendation of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and one invited by recommendation of the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission.

The representatives from the Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, and Agriculture may not vote on the recommendations of the Task Force.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Organization and Conduct of the Task Force**

1. A portion of every Task Force meeting will be devoted to public comment. The Task Force will use paper sign-in sheets and not online sign-in technology.
2. The Task Force website will be maintained according to the general rules applicable to standing legislative committees.

### **Rules of Order**

All meetings of the Task Force are governed by Reed's Parliamentary Rules, except as otherwise specified by these procedures.

### **Decision Making Process**

1. Decisions will be made by consensus to the extent possible. In instances where consensus is not possible, decisions will be made by the agreement of a majority of the Task Force members. Minority reports may be offered.
2. Any interim understandings reached during discussion will remain tentative until an agreement is reached on all issues under discussion, unless agreed otherwise.
3. A majority of the Task Force constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. A quorum is presumed unless the question is raised.
4. A majority of the Task Force (not a majority of those members who are present) is required to take official action.
5. Official action must be taken in an open meeting. Official action via conference call, electronic mail, or any similar means is not allowed. A member must be physically present in order to vote (e.g., elect a chair, approve a final report, etcetera). Official action by a proxy also is not allowed.
6. Final recommendations of the Task Force to the Legislature must be made by a 60 percent majority of the voting Task Force members. Minority recommendations supported by at least five voting members of the Task Force may also be submitted to the Legislature.